

Claim Amendments and Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claim 20 and amend claims 4, 7-12 and 21 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing detergents or detergent components as a product in granulate or agglomerate form on a dry basis in an essentially horizontally oriented fluidized bed, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a multi-stage fluidized bed for performing different process steps selected from heating, agglomeration, coating, drying, and cooling for manufacturing the product;

(b) supplying solid powdered starting material to the fluidized bed in a fluidizing space;

(c) supplying process air to the different process steps from beneath the fluidizing space, wherein a different process air stream is provided to the fluidizing space by each of at least two chambers in an air inflow area beneath the fluidizing space;

(d) supplying material components comprising a binder and/or water selected from a binder, water and/or one or more other materials to the solid starting material in the fluidizing space;

(e) fluidizing the starting material and material components in the fluidizing space to form a solid mixture comprising granulates or agglomerates of homogenous composition;

(f) reducing a flow speed of the process air in an expansion zone located above the fluidizing space, such that particles entrained in the process air from the fluidizing space are pre-separated and returned to the fluidizing space; and

(g) separating process dust with a dedusting mechanism adjoining above the expansion zone.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the at least two chambers are arranged one after another in a horizontal direction of the fluidized bed to provide the different process air streams sequentially to the fluidizing space.